

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3965

To authorize the establishment of a Center for Plant Disease Control in
the Department of Agriculture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Michigan introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the establishment of a Center for Plant Disease
Control in the Department of Agriculture.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CENTER FOR PLANT DISEASE CONTROL.**

4 Section 422 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.
5 7732) is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 422. INFORMATION COLLECTION AND CENTER FOR**
7 **PLANT DISEASE CONTROL.**

8 “(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION AND INVESTIGA-
9 TIVE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may gather and com-
10 pile information and conduct any investigations the Sec-

1 retary considers necessary for the administration and en-
2 forcement of this title.

3 “(b) EVALUATION OF NEED FOR CENTER.—The Sec-
4 retary shall evaluate the feasibility and desirability of es-
5 tablishing a Center for Plant Disease Control in the De-
6 partment of Agriculture that—

7 “(1) would facilitate the gathering and com-
8 piling of information and the conducting of inves-
9 tigations, as authorized by subsection (a), related to
10 plant pests that can directly or indirectly injure,
11 cause damage to, or cause disease in plants or plant
12 products; and

13 “(2) could act as a first responder in the event
14 of an accidental or deliberate introduction or use of
15 a plant pest.

16 “(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—If the results of
17 the evaluation conducted under subsection (b) support the
18 need for a Center for Plant Disease Control in the Depart-
19 ment, the Secretary may establish the Center and assign
20 to it the specific functions referred to subsections (b) and
21 (d) and such other duties as the Secretary considers ap-
22 propriate.

23 “(d) CENTER FUNCTIONS.—The Center for Plant
24 Disease Control, if established by the Secretary, may be
25 used to perform and support the following activities:

1 “(1) Development of new tools for rapid detec-
2 tion and diagnosis of plant diseases, including by re-
3 mote sensing.

4 “(2) Expansion of research on genomics and
5 plant biotechnology as the foundation for more rapid
6 and effective development of crop plants with resist-
7 ance to pathogens that are potential threat agents.

8 “(3) Expansion of research on genomics and
9 plant biotechnology that can be used for detection
10 of, forensics related to, or recovery from a bioter-
11 rorist attack on plants or plant products.

12 “(4) Ongoing identification, risk assessment,
13 and updating of threat agents to plants.

14 “(5) Development of a database and new or ac-
15 quired collections of foreign and domestic pathogens,
16 and methods for their rapid diagnosis.

17 “(e) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate
18 the activities of the Center for Plant Disease Control with
19 other Federal and State agencies, in particular the Office
20 of Homeland Security, and appropriate experts in the area
21 of plant pest control at public and private research institu-
22 tions.

23 “(f) FUNDING.—Of the funds appropriated for a fis-
24 cal year pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
25 in section 441, the Secretary may use up to \$5,000,000

- 1 to support the activities of the Center for Plant Disease
- 2 Control.”.

